

SECRET

Approved For Release 2001/05/23 : CIA-RDP80-01826R000400110013-6
SECURITY INFORMATION

12 March 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary, Career Service Committee

25X1A

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the proposed revision of CIA Regulation covering the Agency awards program.

25X1A

2. The following comments citing portions of the proposed revision to are offered:

- a. Ref. 14. Awards Program
C (1), (2), (3)

(1) The language of these paragraphs appears to be copied almost intact from Department of State regulations on this subject.

(2) Historically, it has been the position of the United States that heroism demands a higher degree of recognition than that deemed suitable for outstanding service. Since the Armed Forces of the United States place their awards for heroism in the first and second places (subordinate gallantry decorations also occupy fourth, sixth, seventh and eighth places in the series of decorations) it would seem only proper that this Agency distinguish between those who win acclaim for valor and those who contribute extraordinary service from a non-hazard vantage point. If the Agency's senior award is to occupy an unchallenged position, I recommend that the criteria for courage be defined in such a manner that it will merit a decoration distinct from that proposed for service and superior to it in all respects.

(3) It is noted that the Distinguished Service Award, the Superior Service Award and the Commendable Service Award are each intended for presentation not only to individuals but to groups of individuals. This appears to defeat the purpose of personal recognition and will tend to dilute the level of achievement that should be required of recipients of these awards. I believe that unit awards, if included at all, should be a distinct type of recognition not equivalent to awards intended to recognize the individual. Wartime experience of the Armed Services supports the view that unit citations, while intended for recognition of a high level of achievement on the part of all members of a unit, were frequently a source of gratification to the mediocre, but of dubious significance to the outstanding. Also they were at times a cause of dissatisfaction when some units sharing hazards or responsibilities received citations while others exposed to the same dangers or difficulties

Approved For Release 2001/05/23 : CIA-RDP80-01826R000400110013-6

SECRET

SECRET

-2-

Approved For Release 2001/05/23 : CIA-RDP80-01826R000400110013-6

~~SECRET~~ INFORMATION

were not so recognized. For example, maintenance personnel of tactical Air Force units stationed in the U. K. received unit citations based on the battle achievements of their combat elements, while personnel maintaining non-combat aircraft at the same air bases did not. Respect for the awards system was not engendered by this type of situation. In view of the foregoing, I doubt the utility of a unit award within CIA, particularly one that will meet the criteria set forth in connection with the three basic awards.

b. Ref. C (3)

(1) It is suggested that the term "commendable" be replaced by some other word more expressive of outstanding performance. Commendable performance is perhaps to be expected as a matter of course rather than a level of achievement worthy of a decoration. "Meritorious" might offer an acceptable substitute.

c. Ref. C (4)

(1) Standards for military awards are closely defined in regulations of the Services and authorized after extensive board action in most cases. Review by an Agency committee unless for the purpose of attempting to expedite favorable action appears to be unwarranted.

3. The proposed revision overlooks several civilian decorations which possess a reputation, that from a security standpoint is most valuable. Since these awards are known to be in existence because of publicity received during World War II the fact of their possession would lead to less notice than a recently established Agency emblem. These awards, the Medal for Merit, the President's Certificate of Merit and the Medal of Freedom were established during World War II for outstanding civilian services in support of the war effort. They could be readily adapted for use by this Agency, although some modification of the statute and executive orders may be necessary. It is recommended that possibilities of using them be explored.

4. On 3 March regulations governing civilian awards for the Department of State, Department of the Army, Department of the Navy and the Treasury Department as well as specimens of the Exceptional Service Award of the Army, the Distinguished Service and Meritorious Service awards of the Navy, and a sample of the Navy's long service award loaned to this office were forwarded to you. Transmitted herewith is a copy of the initial publication of the Department of State announcing its awards program, a copy of Air Force Regulation 30-14 and a copy of Army Regulation 600-45, both dealing with military and civilian awards. A specimen of the Exceptional Service Award

Approved For Release 2001/05/23 : CIA-RDP80-01826R000400110013-6

SECRET

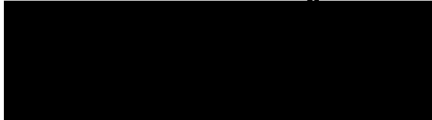
SECRET

Approved For Release 2001/05/23 : CIA-RDP80-01826R000400110013-6

SECRET INFORMATION

and lapel button presented by the Air Force, and a specimen of the Medal of Freedom are available for loan to you at your request.

25X1A9a


Chief, Liaison Control

Approved For Release 2001/05/23 : CIA-RDP80-01826R000400110013-6

SECRET